

What is claimed is:

1. A probe system adapted for use in a channel director comprising:
at least one probe being capable of being associated with at least one port
associated with said channel director;
5 a mechanism for copying all ingress and egress data to/from a fiber
channel port to the said probe for analysis.

- 10 2. A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said channel director is a
storage area network.

- 15 3. A probe system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said storage area network
includes a fibre channel architecture.

4. A probe system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said mechanism comprises
15 a mirroring capability to copy the data associated with said port to said probe.

- 20 5. A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said probe is a software
device.

6. A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said probe is a hardware
device.

- 25 7. A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mechanism reflects
an optical energy signal on the transmit side of the port, wherein said optical
energy is transmitted to said probe.

8. A probe system as claimed in claim 7, wherein approximately 10 percent of said optical energy signal is reflected.

9. A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mechanism reflects an optical energy signal on the receive side of a port, wherein said optical energy is transmitted to said probe.

10. A probe system as claimed in claim 9, wherein approximately 10 percent of said optical energy signal is reflected.

11. A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mechanism is an external fibre channel patch panel that replicates data for a given fibre channel port to said port.

15 12. A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mechanism accomplishes an internal replication of data within a switch to a probe.

13. A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mechanism accomplishes an internal replication of data within a director to said probe.

20 14. A method for monitoring data ingress and egress in a storage area network comprising:
providing at least one probe on at least one port associated with a device in said storage area network;

25 mirroring a portion of a signal ingress and/or egress associated with said port using said probe to a monitoring location;

obtaining information regarding data ingress and/or data egress obtained using said mirrored signal.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising generating statistics
5 on the information provided by said probe.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising viewing said statistics.

10 17. A method for monitoring data ingress and egress in a storage area network comprising:

means for monitoring data on at least one port associated with a device in said storage area network;

15 means for mirroring a portion of a signal ingress and/or egress associated with said port using said probe to a monitoring location;

means for obtaining information regarding data ingress and/or data egress obtained using said mirrored signal.

18. A method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising means for generating
20 statistics on the information provided by said means for detecting.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising means for viewing said statistics.

25 20. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising means for storing said statistics.

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